

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TITLE: SELF-LOCKING OSTEOSYNTHESIS DEVICE

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Self-locking osteosynthesis device ~~of the type~~ comprising:

a plate (1) ~~which is equipped~~ with holes (2) for the passage of fixation screws (3), ~~characterized in that the osteosynthesis said plate (1) is being~~ comprised of a composite plate that contains holes (2) having peripheries (4) comprised of inserts ~~made~~ comprised of a plastic biocompatible material having the mechanical properties ~~to allow~~ allowing a self-locking of the periphery (4) of the holes (2) by ~~means of~~ tapping screws ~~that can be~~ used for fixation of the plate, the inserts being inserted into the holes (6) provided in ~~the~~ a remaining part of the plate ~~made~~ comprised of metal.

2. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the peripheries (4) of the holes (2) are comprised of inserts ~~made~~ comprised of a high-performance thermoplastic polymer.

3. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the peripheries (4) of the holes (2) are comprised of inserts ~~made~~ comprised of polyether ether ketone (PEEK).

4. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the passage holes (2) of the fixation screws (3) have a conical shape.

5. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that Claim 1, wherein the remaining part of the plate or base plate (5) is ~~made~~ comprised of titanium.

6. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that Claim 1, wherein the inserts (4) comprising the periphery of the holes (2) are integrated in the remaining part of the plate or base plate (5) by molding from a casting.

7. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that Claim 1, wherein the inserts (4) comprising the periphery of the holes (2) are integrated in the remaining part of the plate or base plate (5) by ~~means of~~ a mechanical assembly.

8. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 7~~, characterized in that it also comprises Claim 1, further comprising:

tapping screws (3) ~~comprising~~ being comprised of a proximal part or head (8) equipped with a conical threading tapping mechanism (9) having a diameter that increases in the direction of the proximal end of the screws.

9. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that it comprises Claim 1, further comprising:

a mechanism that prevents the rotation of the inserts (4) engaged in the holes (6) of the plate (5).